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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/544,507	04/06/2000	Giampiero M. Sierra	MS1-486US	9078
22801	7590	10/19/2006	EXAMINER	
LEE & HAYES PLLC 421 W RIVERSIDE AVENUE SUITE 500 SPOKANE, WA 99201			TRAN, MYLINH T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/544,507

Applicant(s)

SIERRA ET AL.

Examiner

Mylinh Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,9,13,17 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,9,13,17 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/03/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment filed 08/03/06 has been entered and carefully considered. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended. However, the limitations of the amended claims have not been found to be patentable over prior art of record, therefore, claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 remain rejected under the same ground of rejection as set forth in the Office Action mailed (05/03/06).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson [US. 6,609,106].

As to claims 1, 9 and 17, Robertson teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for using in a graphical user interface configured to support a login operation comprising the steps/means for:

displaying at least one user identifier prompt within a graphical user interface, the at least one user identifier prompt including at least one selectable user area (figure 20A) operatively associated with a previously configured user capable of completing a login operation by inputting user password input (figure 18, column 20, lines 26-36);

upon receiving user input selecting the at least one selectable user area, displaying at least one user input field within the graphical user interface wherein the at least one user input field is automatically configured to operatively receive user password input associated with the login operation (figure 20 A);

while conditions allow for the reception of the user password input and it is determined that there has been a failure to operatively receive the user password input for the login operation, then automatically displaying reminder information associated with the user input field through a non-modal mechanism within the graphical user interface (figure20C, column 20, lines 40-53);

However, Robertson fails to teach or suggest the display of the reminder information being removed upon receipt of an input via the at least one user input field; the failure being detected at least in party by failure to receive the user

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password input for a given amount of time; and displaying a non-modal mechanism as a hint balloon.

It was well known in the computer art that the implementations in which the display of the reminder information is removed upon receipt of an input via the at least one user input field because when the password is entered in the "password" input field, another user interface screen will be provided to the user. The reminder information will be disappeared (removed) in the new screen.

It was well known in the computer art that the implementations in which the failure is detected at least in part by failure to receive the user password input for a given amount of time because when the invalid password is entered in the "password" input field, it takes a given amount of time to pop up a password hint.

It was well known that the graphical user interface displays a non-modal mechanism as a hint balloon instead a text popup of is taught in the computer art because it is a design choice.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation with the teaching of Robertson. Motivation would have been to enhance the security system.

As to claim 5, Robertson also teaches the reminder information including user provided password reminder information (figure 18, column 13, lines 51-65).

However, Robertson fails to teach or suggest the display of the reminder information being removed upon receipt of an input via the at least one user input

field; the failure being detected at least in part by failure to receive the user password input for a given amount of time; and displaying a non-modal mechanism as a hint balloon.

It was well known in the computer art that the implementations in which the display of the reminder information is removed upon receipt of an input via the at least one user input field because when the password is entered in the "password" input field, another user interface screen will be provided to the user. The reminder information will be disappeared (removed) in the new screen.

It was well known in the computer art that the implementations in which the failure is detected at least in part by failure to receive the user password input for a given amount of time because when the invalid password is entered in the "password" input field, it takes a given amount of time to pop up a password hint.

It was well known that the graphical user interface displays a non-modal mechanism as a hint balloon instead a text popup of is taught in the computer art because it is a design choice.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation with the teaching of Robertson. Motivation would have been to enhance the security system.

As to claims 13 and 21, they are similar in scope to claim 5; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

Applicant has argued that Robertson fails to teach or suggest the display of the reminder information being removed upon receipt of an input via the at least one user input field; the failure being detected at least in part by failure to receive the user password input for a given amount of time; and displaying a non-modal mechanism as a hint balloon.

However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees because it was well known in the computer art that the implementations in which the display of the reminder information is removed upon receipt of an input via the at least one user input field because when the password is entered in the "password" input field, another user interface screen will be provided to the user. The reminder information will be disappeared (removed) in the new screen.

It was well known in the computer art that the implementations in which the failure is detected at least in part by failure to receive the user password input for a given amount of time because when the invalid password is entered in the "password" input field, it takes a given amount of time to pop up a password hint.

It was well known that the graphical user interface displays a non-modal mechanism as a hint balloon instead a text popup of is taught in the computer art because it is a design choice.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

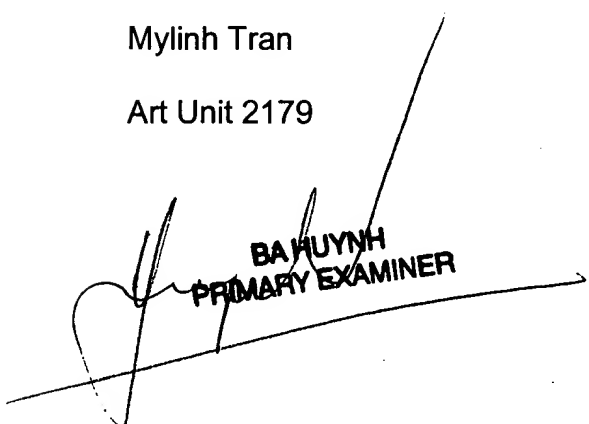
571-273-8300

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

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BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER